

## Big Changes for Motor Carrier Services

This is an exciting time for Missouri motor carriers! In July, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission overwhelmingly supported the development of a web-based system to replace three outdated computer programs that don't interact.

When the project is completed, MoDOT's Motor Carrier Services will be much more efficient. Traveler safety will improve, too. But that's not all! Because it's Internet-based, carriers will have 24-hour access to us. You'll be able to apply for a permit from your office computer at 3 a.m. if you are so inclined.

You'll hear more about this in the coming months. We may even contact you to help us understand how to make the system work best for you. It's going to take 12-18 months to get everything in place, but I anticipate the 2006 renewal season will be a lot easier for all of us.

One other change has been delayed. Our new facility won't be complete until late fall. We've decided to hold off the move until registration renewals are complete. We'll announce our move date in plenty of time for you to come help us carry the boxes!

Staggered registration is around the corner. It will take effect with renewals for 2006. You'll be contacted in the coming months with information about your options for changing the date you renew your plate requirements.

MCS education and enforcement staff are out this fall with several courses including one specially designed for the agricultural community. MCS enforcement continues to grow with a new location in Willow Springs - our ninth regional office.

I would also like to express my appreciation to each of you for your willingness to partner with MCS. We want to provide you outstanding customer service and improve traveler safety. In my view, working together is the only way we can be successful.



Motor Carrier Services Director



### Check This Out!

In addition to wire transfers and Comcheck, Motor Carrier Service is happy to accept carriers' checks as payment. You can even write one check to settle several invoices. Just be sure to include a note or copies of the invoices so we know how to apply the funds.

We accept only checks with preprinted names and addresses. We also require the driver license number and date of birth of the person who signs the check. It's especially important to make sure this information appears on the check if you send it in by mail or courier.

Cash, money-order or cashiers-check payments are required of those who have written a check that was returned for insufficient funds. This stipulation applies for three years.

Please call 573-751-1528 if you have questions about our payment policies.

[www.carrier.state.mo.us](http://www.carrier.state.mo.us)

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# New Hours-of-Service Rules Challenged

The new Hours of Service rules, adopted Jan. 3, 2004, were challenged in the Federal Court of Appeals. Although the court's opinion vacated the 2004 HOS rules, this decision does not eliminate the need for motor carriers to remain in compliance with them.

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration have 45 days to review the decision and consider an appeal. Until that time, the rules will be in effect. If an appeal is filed, the rules will be in effect until the court makes a decision.

How does this affect you? Until you are notified otherwise, comply with the 2004 HOS rules. Until we are advised otherwise, Motor Carrier Services will continue to enforce them.

**Statement of Annette M. Sandberg, Administrator  
FMCSA, regarding the decision. July 16, 2004**

The Department of Transportation and the Federal Motor

Carrier Safety Administration have received the court's decision. With assistance from the Department of Justice, we are currently reviewing the opinion to determine possible next steps. Under the court's rules of procedure, the Department has 45 days to review the decision and decide whether to seek other legal remedies. During that period of time, the current hours of service rule, announced in April 2003, remains in effect.

FMCSA will advise Federal authorities and State law enforcement partners of their responsibility to continue compliance with the current rule. FMCSA will advise major industry associations to educate motor carriers and drivers of the continued need for HOS compliance. The HOS rule is important to commercial vehicle safety and is the first major re-write of the HOS rules in more than 60 years. Questions relating to the litigation should be referred to the Department of Justice.

## New Requirements for Hiring Commercial Truck and Bus Drivers

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced a final rule, effective April 29, 2004, to help motor carriers hire truck and bus drivers with the best possible safety records. The rule requires prospective employers to review candidates' professional driving safety records to assess the potential safety risks of prospective new driver-employees. Former employers must now make that information available.

Prospective employers must advise drivers that they have the right to review, request correction or refute what a previous employer provided in their safety history. Previous employers will be required to go back three years to confirm employment and provide other information about employees such as crash involvement, alcohol and controlled substance violations, rehabilitation efforts and reversion to alcohol or controlled substance use if rehabilitation was unsuccessful.

The rule also requires previous employers to respond to prospective employers' questions within 30 days. The rule limits the liability of those required to provide and use driver safety performance information.

Complaints about failures to comply with this rule will be investigated and enforced by FMCSA and MoDOT Motor Carrier Services. Carriers failing to comply are subject to civil penalties.

Need more information? Read the regulations (especially part 391, sections 21, 23 and 53) online at <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rulesregs/fmcsr/fmcsrguide.htm>

### Making Progress

- A new enforcement office opened recently in Willow Springs.
- We're writing a motor carrier regulation manual to help you understand and comply with all the laws that apply to you. This manual will explain the requirements for licensing information, insurance, drivers licensing, titling, permitting and record keeping. It should be complete in the fall of 2004 as both a hard copy and as an electronic file on our web site, <http://www.carrier.state.mo.us>.

# New Hours and Moving Update

**Effective Sept. 1, 2004, Motor Carrier Services New Hours of Service will be 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Moving Update:** Our last newsletter reported that MCS would be moving to a new location in September. Due to construction delays, we will remain in our current locations for the time being. You can still contact us at the same phone numbers and through our P.O. Box 893, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0893 mailing address. We will keep you informed on the new facility and our move date.

## The Difference is YOU. DRIVE SMART

Does anyone like highway work zones? They aren't the best part of any trip, but they are a necessary part of keeping our highways in good shape. They're also places where workers and motorists are at added risk.

In 2003, 23 people died in Missouri work zones; one was a MoDOT employee. The others were contractors or travelers like you. Maybe a cell phone distracted them. Perhaps they drove too fast or were impaired in some way. They could have followed another driver too closely. No matter the cause, the result was the same. Someone didn't make it home.

Work zones demand respect. Take a moment to review the safety tips below and learn what you can do to help make sure you, your family, friends and our co-workers make it home safely.

### DRIVE SMART in Work Zones

- Plan your trip – Before you go, contact MoDOT for major work-zone locations.
- Stay alert – Expect the unexpected.
- Watch your speed – Speed limits are set for your safety.
- Obey all work-zone signs.
- Merge early and don't tailgate – Courtesy and safety go hand-in-hand.
- Minimize distractions – Turn the radio down and don't use your mobile phone.
- Use seatbelts and child safety seats – In Missouri, it's the law.

Above all, please be patient. We promise to work as quickly as we can to improve your travel.

Information about major construction projects can be found at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org), or you may call MoDOT customer service at 1-888-ASK MODOT.

# Datelines

## Sept. 6

Labor Day state holiday – All Motor Carrier offices closed

## Oct. 1

Filing Deadline: IRP and IFTA renewals

## Oct. 11

Columbus Day state holiday

- Over dimension/Overweight permits office open
- All other MCS offices closed.

## Oct. 31

Third Quarter IFTA returns due

## Nov. 11

Veterans Day state holiday

- Over dimension/Overweight permits office open
- All other MCS offices closed.

## Nov. 15

Filing Deadline – Renewal of single state registration, interstate exempt stamps and intrastate stickers

## Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Day – All MCS offices closed

## Dec. 1

IRP renewal payments due

Agriculture Outreach Scheduled for Hannibal, MO  
MoDOT District 3 Headquarters, 1711 S Hwy 61  
Time: 8:30 to 3:30

For reservations, please call 866-831-6277, Ext. 2

## Dec. 24

Christmas Holiday – All MCS offices closed

## Dec. 31

New Year's Day state holiday – MCS registration office open, all other offices closed

Deadline to return license plates not being renewed

## Jan. 1, 2005

All new credentials must be displayed

## Feb. 28, 2005

IFTA decals and license for 2005 must be displayed

## News on Wheels

Missouri Department of Transportation  
Motor Carrier Services  
P.O. Box 893  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573.751.7100  
Toll Free: 866.831.6277  
Fax: 573.526.3651  
[www.carrier.state.mo.us](http://www.carrier.state.mo.us)

Additional copies available upon request.  
If you have any questions or comments, please send them to the address at left.

**Motor Carrier Services Director**  
Jan Skouby

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## News on Wheels

Missouri Department of Transportation  
Motor Carrier Services  
P.O. Box 893  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**PRSTD STD**  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Jefferson City, MO  
Permit No. 24

Motor Carrier Services	Address	Phone & Fax
<b>International Registration Plan</b> Regulations, IRP applications, reciprocity, trip permits, temporary authorizations, license plates, cab cards	<b>Location:</b> 1617 Southridge Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 <b>Mail:</b> P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65105	573-751-6433 Fax: 573-751-0916
<b>International Fuel Tax Agreement</b> Regulations, Missouri IFTA applications, temporary fuel permits	<b>Location:</b> 1617 Southridge Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 <b>Mail:</b> P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65105	573-751-6433 Fax: 573-751-0916
<b>Overdimension and Overweight</b> Regulations, permits, blanket permits	<b>Location:</b> 2211 St. Mary's Blvd. Jefferson City, MO 65109 <b>Mail:</b> P. O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-2871 or (800) 877-8499 Fax: 573-751-7408
<b>Single State Registration, Interstate Exempt, Intrastate Authority, Housemovers License, Hazardous Waste and Waste Tires</b> Applications, SSRS receipts, stamps, stickers, licenses, proof of insurance	<b>Location:</b> 1617 Southridge Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109 <b>Mail:</b> P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-3358 or 866-831-6277 Fax: 573-522-6708
<b>Safety and HM Regulations/Enforcement</b> Information, regulations, training, compliance reviews, educational contacts, complaint investigations	<b>Location:</b> 301 W. High, Truman Bldg., Room 230, Jefferson City, MO 65101 <b>Mail:</b> P. O. Box 893 Jefferson City, MO 65102	573-751-7117 or 866-831-6277 Fax: 573-751-4354

**Web sites:** [www.carrier.state.mo.us](http://www.carrier.state.mo.us) and [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)